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LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, on 12 May 1993.

I would be grateful if you could have this statement circulated as a
document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic

There have been recent signs of positive developments towards a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. These developments were connected primarily with the adoption, on 30 April 1993, of Security Council resolution 822 (1993) and with the trilateral initiative by the United States of America, Turkey and the Russian Federation.

Setting high store by these efforts, the Azerbaijani Republic hoped that its consistent position in support of a political solution of the conflict, together with the peacemaking efforts by various concerned States, would lead the Republic of Armenia to concede the futility of its efforts to resolve the Karabakh problem by force and to realize the extreme unpopularity of the idea of redrawing the present frontiers, in violation of the principles of territorial integrity and respect for the sovereignty of States. Recent events, however, give reason to doubt whether the Republic of Armenia is ready to implement Security Council resolution 822 (1993) and bear out the apprehension of the Azerbaijani side concerning Armenia's resumption of the tactics of procrastination and delaying the implementation of any peaceful decisions and initiatives which stand in the way of its policy of annexing the territory of a neighbouring State.

Evidence of this is provided by Armenia's latest aggression against the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and other frontier districts of Azerbaijan. Thus, on the night of 10 May 1993, the district centre Sharur and the villages Sarkhanly, Ashagi Aralik, Ashagi Yaichy, Dizya, Garkhun, Mamed Sabir, Oglan Gala and Dudunka in the Sharur district of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan were subjected to massed shelling by Grad artillery systems, tanks and heavy artillery from the direction of the Khachik military base in the Ekhegnadzor district of Armenia. There has been extensive destruction and loss of life in a number of these villages. Operating from the direction of the Taush district, the armed forces of Armenia have once again subjected the village of Agdam in the Tauz district of Azerbaijan to tank and heavy machine-gun bombardment. The villages of Kemerly and Gaimagly in the Kazakh district have been subjected to shelling by Grad artillery systems. On the night of 11 May, the district centre of Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was shelled from the direction of the Ararat district of Armenia.

The aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, which is situated dozens of kilometres from Karabakh and has suffered from a prolonged and extremely harsh blockade as a consequence of the destruction by Armenian armed formations of the 32-kilometre-long Megri section of the railway line which passes through the territory of Armenia and provides the only transport link between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and Azerbaijan, has demonstrated, yet again, the mendacity of Armenian propaganda about its non-involvement in the conflict.

This aggression has convincingly proved that territorial expansionism, elevated in Armenia to the level of State policy, forms the basis of this conflict.

This inevitably leads to the conclusion that Armenia's aggression against the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and other frontier districts of Azerbaijan is nothing more or less than the determination of the Erevan authorities yet again to sabotage the negotiating process towards a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic considers the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan and its frontier districts as the refusal of the Republic of Armenia to comply with Security Council resolution 822 (1993) and its unwillingness to meet the joint initiative by the United States of America, Turkey and the Russian Federation.

Baku, 12 May 1993
